



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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August 10, 2006  
PSA-084

### Park Visitors Discover Wildflowers, Snakes And Lizards

Have you ever caught a glimpse of a little lizard with a bright blue tail scurrying into the underbrush and wondered what it was? Do you wish you could name the colorful wildflowers growing along your favorite hiking trail?

This month, the Fairfax County Park Authority is offering two educational programs at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly for those interested in learning about reptiles and wildflowers living and growing in northern Virginia.

Take a leisurely walk with a naturalist to view wildflowers growing in one of the last remaining meadows in western Fairfax County, the 177-acre Hunter-Hacor tract in the heart of the Sully Woodlands. Hikers will be awed by the bright pink flowers of Virginia bush clover and yellow, orange and red hawkweeds, dandelion-like flowers with fuzzy stalks. Visitors will also learn about the special relationship between milkweed and monarch butterflies. The feathery yellow florets of goldenrod are a sign that summer is coming to an end. The Meadow Wildflower Walk is from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, August 20, 2006. Carpools leave from Walney Visitor Center. Reservations are required. Cost is \$5 per visitor. Wear long pants and sturdy hiking shoes; bring your field guides, binoculars and lunch. Call 703-631-0013 for more information.

E. C. Lawrence Park is home to many different types of snakes and reptiles. Join the resident naturalist for a short film on reptiles, then trek into the woods to search for, capture, identify and release the camouflaged critters. If the weather is hot, northern watersnakes and gartersnakes stay cool near the creek. When the temperature is cooler, ringneck snakes, black racers and northern brown snakes can be found among the park's forested hills. Broad-headed skinks, the largest lizard in northern Virginia, live in the humid forest, hiding in leaf-litter or climbing trees. Snakes and Lizards! is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2006. Reservations are required. Program is appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$5 per person. Call 703-631-0013 for information and reservations.

E. C. Lawrence Park's four miles of trails on over 660 acres of forested parkland, wind through hills and around Walney Pond. The Walney Visitor Center, a converted farm house built in 1780, houses a live reptile and amphibian display, children's touch table, and features natural and cultural artifacts.

Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly.  
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*Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.*